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June 27, 2001

General Colin Powell
Secretary of State
U.S. Dept. of State
Washington D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary,

On December 13, 1998, the northeast Colombian village of Santo Domingo was attacked from the air. Eighteen residents of the village, all of them civilians and nine of them children. We have recently learned that the U.S. Embassy has been contacted to assist in the investigation of these tragic deaths. We are writing to urge you to provide all available assistance to ongoing investigation of the military attack upon Santo Domingo.

Since the time of the bombing of Santo Domingo, justice for the families of those killed and for those wounded has been continually delayed. The Colombian Air Force long claimed that the cluster bomb explosion was caused by a FARC truck bomb, an analysis refuted by an FBI ballistics analysis last year. The denials and delays have contributed to climate of impunity that imperils the lives of Colombian civilians.

For over most of the last two decades, including during the 1989 provision of the cluster bomb used in the attack on Santo Domingo, the United States has explained its military aid to Colombia in terms of the war on narcotics production and traffic. However, recent reports suggest that these eighteen deaths occurred not as a part of that policy, but rather as a part of an aggressive military effort around American oil installations in Colombia. The potential involvement of a U.S.-based security contractor, AirScan, and of a U.S.-based oil corporation, Occidental Petroleum, in this attack raise troubling questions about the aims of American-supported military operations. A complete, open investigation is essential to addressing all of these questions. You have an immediate opportunity to support the interest of securing justice, ending impunity, and full accountability for the uses of military force supplied in the name of the American people. The full knowledge of the United States government on the events surrounding the attack and full subpoena powers for the American pilots who may have been involved in the incident should be provided to this important investigation.

Additionally, accountability to American citizens is essential given the apparent mixing of public and private interests in U.S. military involvement in Colombia. We urge you to fully disclose the role of Occidental Petroleum and AirScan in U.S. diplomatic and military contacts with Colombia and the positions your embassy has taken concerning these corporations with histories of human rights abuses.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: MELVIN E SINN
DATE/CASE ID: 25 JUN 2004 200300860

SCANNED

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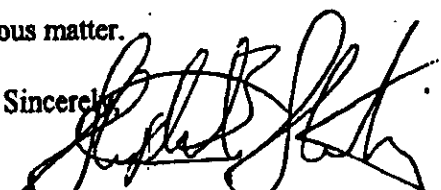
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Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,


Stephanie B. Studebaker

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